

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6958
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4263

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, US, AF
SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF NEW REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 110080

1. AMB MET WITH FONSEC SHAHNAWAZ NOON MAY 1 TO PROBE ON SUBJECT
OF DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. GOP HAD RECEIVED COPY OF SIMILAR
AFGHAN NOTE REQUESTING RECOGNITION.

2. FONSEC SAID THAT WHILE FINAL DECISION HAD NOT BEEN MADE
BY GOP, THERE WAS STRONG TENDENCY TO LET RECOGNITION TAKE PLACE
IN MUCH THE SAME MANNER AS USG IS CONTEMPLATING, WHICH AMB
DESCRIBED. FOR TIME BEING, PAK AMB HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED THAT
IF HE IS ASKED DIRECT QUESTIONS BY GOA HE IS TO SAY THAT RECENT
EVENTS ARE INTERNAL AFGHAN AFFAIR, THAT PAKISTAN WANTS STABILITY
IN AFGHANISTAN, AND THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS SHOULD BE BASED
ON FIVE PRINCIPLES OF COEXISTENCE AND ON UN CHARTER.
GOP WILL DELIBERATE FOR A DAY OR TWO BEFORE MAKING FINAL DECISION.

3. FONSEC DID NOT EXHIBIT ANY UNEASE OVER POSSIBILITY
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THAT USG MAY PROCEED ACCORDING TO GENERAL POLICY THAT AMB
OUTLINED. WHEN ASKED FONSEC SAID GOP HAD NOT YET CONSULTED
WITH IRAN ON THIS QUESTION BUT INTENDED TO IN NEXT DAY OR
TWO. HE ASKED, AND AMB AGREED, TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH ON
THE MATTER.

4. ON QUESTION OF EFFECTIVE CONTROL BY AFGHAN GOVT, SHAHNAWAZ

SAID IT WAS CLEAR TO GOP THAT THERE WAS NO DISSIDENCE OCCURRING AT PRESENT THAT WAS LIKELY TO LEAD TO OVERTHROW OF THE NEW GOVT. AMB SAID THAT IRANIAN AMB A FEW HOURS EARLIER HAD SAID THAT IRAN'S REPORTS INDICATED THERE WAS NO FIGHTING GOING ON ANYWHERE IN AFGHANISTAN; FONSEC SAID HE WAS NOT SURE ON THAT POINT, BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN PREVIOUS REPORTS OF ANTI-COUP ACTIVITY IN KANDAHAR, BUT GOP DID NOT QUESTION NEW GOVT'S EFFECTIVE CONTROL.

5. SHAHNAWAZ WAS ANXIOUS TO SHARE HIS VIEWS ON RECENT EVENTS IN KABUL, AND DISCUSSION ON RECOGNITION ISSUE WAS FOLLOWED BY LENGTHY MONOLOGUE BEST TYPIFIED BY FONSEC'S OPENING COMMENT THAT "WE'VE GOT ANOTHER GDR ON OUR HANDS". HE GAVE US A "NON-PAPER" (BEING POUCHED NEA/PAB) SUMMARIZING GOP UNDERSTANDING OF CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND INCLUDING SOME THOUGHTS ON FUTURE COURSE OF NEW GOA. CHRONOLOGY GENERALLY PARALLELS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HAPPENED.

6. ON PATH NEW KABUL REGIME WILL FOLLOW, SHAHNAWAZ NOTED THAT "THEY ARE IN THE LAPS OF THE RUSSIANS". HE SAID REGIME IS OBVIOUSLY LOOKING CLOSELY AT RELATIONS WITH THE GOP. SHAH MOHAMMED DOST, THE "ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER", HAS EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND IN PAK/AFGHAN AFFAIRS. WAHEED ABDULLAH AND SAMED GHASUS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND ARE BEING CLOSELY QUESTIONED. GOA AMB TO PAKISTAN ETEMADE IS HELD IN MOD CONFIDENTIAL

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AND IS ALSO UNDER INTERROGATION. THESE THREE KNOW THE MOST ABOUT PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS, THE DISCUSSIONS ON PROGRESSIVE IMPROVEMENTS OF RELATIONS WITH THE DAOUD GOVERNMENT, AND WHAT "AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED".

7. PAKS BELIEVE NEW KABUL GOVERNMENT CAN GO ONE OF TWO WAYS IN RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. IT CAN IMMEDIATELY REPUDIATE DAOUD'S STEPS TOWARD BETTER RELATIONSHIP AND ADOPT CONFRONTATIONAL POLICY. ALTERNATIVE, IT CAN HOLD BACK, CONSOLIDATE ITS POWER, AND WAIT FOR DIRECTIONS FROM ITS "OBVIOUS ALLIES". SHAHNAWAZ SAID A SCENARIO PAKS WORRY ABOUT IS UFDIANS TELLING PAKS THAT IF THEY DO NOT GIVE IN TO VARIOUS RUSSIAN DEMANDS, MOSCOW WILL INSTRUCT KABUL TO HEAT UP PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE AND ADOPT CONFRONTATIONAL POLICY. WHICHEVER SCENARIO APPLIES, PAKS SEE GREATLY INCREASED THREAT TO THEIR OWN SECURITY.

8. FONSEC ALSO ENGAGED IN LONG LITANY NOTING COUP IN KABUL IS ONLY MOST RECENT MANIFESTATION OF HISTORICAL RUSSIAN MW CL#TOWARD THE WARM WATERS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN. HE ALSO REITERATED GOP VIEW THAT USG HAS BEEN REMISS IN MEETING

ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO OPPOSE RUSSIAN DESIGNS. I TOOK
EXCEPTION TO HIS ANALYSIS, BUT DID AGREE TO PASS HIS
CONCERNS TO WASHINGTON.

9. SHAHNAWAZ CLEARLY INDICATED FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE GOP
WILL PURSUE MODERATE AND RESPONSIBLE COURSE WITH AFGHANIS-
TAN. HE NOTED THAT USSR CAN DO PAKISTAN "A LOT OF HARM"
NOW THAT ITS INFLUENCE HAS INCREASED IN KABUL. THEREFORE,
PAKISTAN HAS TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL, AND IT IS IN
ISLAMABAD'S INTERESTS TO HAVISPMRRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH
NEW GOA, (FOR AS LONG AS FEASIBLE) NO MATTER HOW DISAGREE-
ABLE THAT MAY BE.

10. COMMENT: DEPT. AND NEW SHOULD CONSIDER EXCHANGING VIEWS
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WITH INDIA ON THE RECOGNITION QUESTION BEFORE USG MAKES
A FINAL MOVE. INDIAN INTERESTS IN STABILITY IN THE AREA
ARE OBVIOUS, THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE
ROLE IN RELATIONS WITH BOTH PAKS AND AFGHANS, AND INDIANS
MIGHT WELCOME SUCH CONSULTATION.
HUMMEL

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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